

Activating Green Spaces in Nasr City, Cairo: Guidelines for Vitalizing Social Life in Residential Green Public Space

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This paper searches into a regenerative framework or guidelines to activate green spaces as social public spaces and specially those situated within a mainly residential context, turning them into the connective tissue of all the inhibited social life of the residents.

In a city like Cairo with increased polarization within the population, and an increased tendency towards privatization and enclosure leading to further polarization, there is a need to reintroduce public space as a social space to tie the community back together into one integrated entity. Nasr City is taken as a case study to explore the possibilities of intervention, being that it is planned based on modernist planning ideals, and a large part of the residents do not have the room to express themselves socially and connect with each other, given that there are planned green spaces intended for use as public space, but that lack the constituents that would make them play this role.

The guidelines would be formulated through an understanding of the current state of green spaces in Nasr city, understanding their shortcomings, extracting the ingredients of successful public space in literature and successful public space examples, and using this knowledge to propose the regenerative framework.